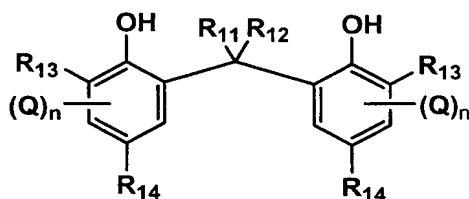


What is claimed is:

1. A silver salt photothermographic material comprising on a support a light-sensitive layer comprising a light-sensitive emulsion containing light-insensitive organic silver salt grains and light-sensitive silver halide grains, a reducing agent for silver ions and a binder, wherein the reducing agent for silver ions is a compound represented by the following formula (1) and the light-sensitive layer further comprises a hindered phenol which is a compound represented by the following formula (2):

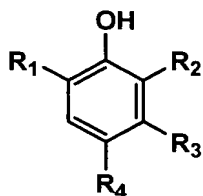
formula (1)



wherein  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  are each a hydrogen atom, a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group, provided that  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  are not hydrogen atoms at the same time;  $R_{13}$  and  $R_{14}$  are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic

group; Q is a group capable of being substituted on a benzene ring; n is 0, 1 or 2;

formula (2)



wherein R<sub>1</sub> is an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group; R<sub>2</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, or an acylamino group; R<sub>3</sub> is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or a cycloalkyl group; R<sub>4</sub> is a group capable of being substituted on a benzene ring.

2. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (1), the 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group represented by R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> is a hydrocarbon ring group.

3. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (1), the 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group represented by R<sub>11</sub> and R<sub>12</sub> is an aromatic hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group.

4. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (1), one of  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 3- to 10-membered non-aromatic ring group or a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring group.

5. The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5- or 6-membered non-aromatic ring group.

6. The photothermographic material of claim 4, wherein said the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group.

7. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (1),  $R_{13}$  is a tertiary alkyl group.

8. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (1),  $R_{14}$  is a primary alkyl group.

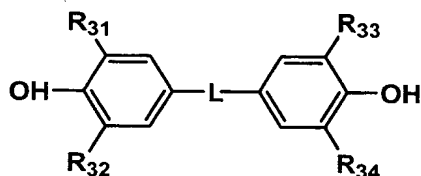
9. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (1), one of  $R_{11}$  and  $R_{12}$  is a hydrogen atom and the other one is a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic group,  $R_{13}$  is

t-butyl or 1-methylcyclohexyl, and  $R_{14}$  is methyl or 2-hydroxyethyl.

10. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein in formula (2),  $R_1$  is a tertiary alkyl group.

11. The photothermographic material of claim 1, wherein the hindered phenol represented by formula (2) is a compound represented by formula (3):

formula (3)



wherein  $R_{31}$ ,  $R_{32}$ ,  $R_{33}$  and  $R_{34}$  are each an alkyl or cycloalkyl group; L is -S- or -CHR<sub>35</sub>, in which  $R_{35}$  is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl or cycloalkyl group.

12. The photothermographic material of claim 11, wherein at least one of  $R_{31}$ ,  $R_{32}$ ,  $R_{33}$  and  $R_{34}$  is a group selected from the group consisting of iso-propyl, iso-nonyl, t-butyl, t-amyl, t-octyl, cyclohexyl, 1-methyl-cyclohexyl and adamantyl.

13. The photothermographic material of claim 11,  
wherein  $R_{35}$  is a hydrogen atom.

14. The photothermographic material of claim 11,  
wherein a molar ratio of the compound represented by formula  
(1) to the compound represented by formula (2) is 0.001 to  
0.2.